

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 363

Introduced by Erdman, 47; Gay, 14; Hansen, 42; Howard, 9; Johnson, 37; Pankonin, 2; Stuthman, 22.

PURPOSE: (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) The Department of Health and Human Services has been entrusted by the Legislature with numerous powers and duties relating to the protection and promotion of the health and welfare of persons in Nebraska;

(b) The department has initiated and expanded numerous programs and services under its administration to carry out such powers and duties;

(c) The Legislature has appropriated General Funds and other funds for such programs and services, but the amount of such appropriations is often less than the amount identified by the department as being necessary and appropriate for such purpose, despite repeated legislative action to increase such appropriations;

(d) State budget constraints are inconsistent with increasing budget needs of programs and services administered by the department; and

(e) Further legislative action is necessary and appropriate to identify and prioritize core responsibilities of the department, to adequately fund such priorities, and to identify

nongovernmental alternatives for the administration and funding of nonpriority programs and services.

(2) The Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, shall:

(a) Identify and categorize the statutory powers and duties of the department and prioritize the programs and services administered by the department to carry out such powers and duties;

(b) Indicate the amount of funding necessary to adequately fund each program or service;

(c) Identify those programs and services which would not be funded if the FY2008-09 budget for the department was first allocated to each program and service in the order of priority at its adequately funded level; and

(d) Recommend nongovernmental alternatives for the administration and funding of such nonpriority programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.